



CALinnovates

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gatto
Chair, Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 2395

Dear Assembly Member Gatto,

CALinnovates has long advocated for the advancement of 21st century communications networks. Since our inception, we have acted as a bridge between the thriving and fast paced technology community in California and the public policy communities in Sacramento and Washington, DC to advance that goal. We work to ensure a careful and considered approach is taken in government regulation by bringing together leaders in the technology and startup communities with government leaders.

Furthering the growth of the new technology-based economy is a main concern of our organization. Over the past decade, the industry has experienced explosive growth while creating thousands of jobs, much of which is based out of California. From the Internet of Things to Smart Cities, it is exceedingly clear that we are living in a connected world; a world which is enabled by modern, 21st century communications networks.

Much of the staggering innovation that has taken place in California is made possible by the existing framework. However, old copper based networks that we are still using today are outdated and unable to keep up. The truth is, that in order to continue to grow, startups across the state need dependable, updated, and high-speed networks. Encouraging the success of California companies via modern communications networks also opens the door for new business models, more jobs, and the continued free flow of ideas that has long been considered the hallmark of our state.

Equally as important is continuing to close the digital divide and extend educational and economic opportunities to all Californians. While there has been a remarkable transition to advanced services with 86% of Californians using the Internet, it is pivotal that we continue to strive towards ensuring that everyone, including low-income, senior, and rural communities, can benefit from and participate fully in 21st century life. Transitioning from legacy networks is central to making sure that everyone can enjoy the advantages of the modern world, regardless of their zip code, income status or age.

CALinnovates is also concerned with improving the performance of critical public systems including transportation, water, and energy, amongst others. As rapid urban expansion continues, more and more stress is being placed on our aging infrastructure. To meet the growing demands, many municipalities are turning to the Internet of Things to increase efficiency across the board and enhance the delivery of city services while reducing the costs. Central to the success of Smart Cities is network longevity and a modern communications network. Technology is the backbone of modern cities and it is vital that we, as a state, make certain that our cities can compete.

California has long been the world's leader in advanced technology. The transition to IP networks is moving at a breakneck speed and to keep California at the center of cutting edge technology, we must ensure that we have the modern, high performing networks that are required.

Assembly Bill 2395 will do just that. Not only will it help accelerate the evolution of technology, it will benefit the people of California by increasing access to education and driving job creation. This legislation focuses on the future of California's economy, rather than the past by enabling communications networks to invest in the types of networks that our citizens seek to use today and tomorrow.

At CALinnovates our mantra is "Innovation Empowering People." We believe that modern, high performing networks are essential to this cause and urge you and your colleagues to support Assembly Bill 2395.

Sincerely,

CALinnovates

cc:

The Honorable Evan Low

The Honorable Jim Patterson, Vice Chair, Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee
Members, Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee